

Remarks

The Final Office Action of March 15, 2010 has been received and reviewed. In this response, claims 1, 10, and 12 have been amended and claims 15-21 have been added, leaving claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-13, and 15-21 pending. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested as discussed herein.

Claim Amendments

The following remark has been noted in the Final Office Action:

Note, the claims do not state
that when the lead is rotated that each individual key will come in contact with a different
lead contact pad and that the contacts are spaced in the same plane circumferentially
around the outside of the lead.

Final Office Action, March 15, 2010, page 2.

In view of this remark as well as other considerations, claims 1, 10, and 12 have been amended to recite "wherein the pads are distributed circumferentially in an adjacent spaced apart relationship around a periphery of the lead connector such that a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the lead connector intersects with each of the lead connector pads of the array of lead connector pads." Support for these amendments may be found in the application as filed at, e.g., paragraph [0021] and Figures 3-4.

Additional non-substantive amendments have also been made in claims 1, 10, and 12.

Entry and consideration of these claim amendments are respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 15-21 have been presented herein to, e.g., provide more comprehensive coverage. Support for these new claims may be found in the application as filed at, e.g., originally-filed claim 1, paragraphs [0018]-[0024], and Figures 1-6.

Entry, consideration, and allowance of these new claims are respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ries et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,755,694). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection and the assertions made in support of it.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *See Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicants respectfully submit that Ries et al. does not describe each and every element as set forth in claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-13 and, as a result, an anticipation rejection of claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-13 has not been established.

Among the reasons for Applicants' position that an anticipation rejection of claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-13 has not been established is that nothing has been identified within Ries et al. that describes a lead connector including an array of lead connector pads, wherein the pads are distributed circumferentially in an adjacent spaced apart relationship around a periphery of the lead connector such that a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the lead connector intersects with each of the lead connector pads of the array of lead connector pads as set forth in each of amended independent claims 1, 10, and 12 (from which claims 2-6, 8-9, and 13 depend).

Although it has been asserted in the Final Office Action that Figures 11B-11D of Ries et al. depict an array of lead connector pads equivalent to the claimed array of lead connector pads, a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the lead connector does not intersect with each of the connector rings 502, 504, & 506 of the lead proximal end 5000 depicted in Figures 11B-11D.

As such, Applicants submit that Ries et al. fails to describe a lead connector including an array of lead connector pads as set forth in each of independent claims 1, 10, and 12 (from which claims 2-6, 8-9, and 13 depend). Further, dependent claims 2-6, 8-9, and 13 include recitations that further support patentability.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Ries et al. fails to anticipate claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12-13. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 10/646,899

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For: MULTI-POLAR ELECTRICAL MEDICAL LEAD CONNECTOR SYSTEM

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives at the telephone number listed below if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted

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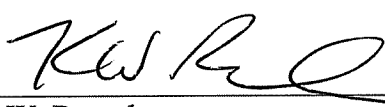
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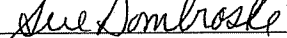
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